

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The replacement drawing filed March 31, 2006, stands objected to. The attached replacement sheet, which corrects the bases for the objections, contains the following amendments to Figure 3A.

The lead line drawn from reference 39 has been extended so that it passes reference number 44 and terminates at "39," thereby overcoming uncertainty with respect to its reference.

Reference number 46 and its lead line have been deleted such that only reference number 44 points to a stake.

The first, second and third diameters 31, 37 and 44 have been added to the replacement sheet for Figure 3A.

Reference number "36" and its lead line have been relocated, but are otherwise unchanged.

These changes are highlighted in red ink on an annotated sheet showing the changes.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

REMARKS

The Office action dated April 28, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

The replacement drawing filed March 31, 2006, stands objected to. The attached replacement sheet corrects the bases for the objections. The lead line drawn from reference 39 has been extended so that it passes reference number 44 and terminates at "39," thereby overcoming uncertainty with respect to its reference. Reference number 46 and its lead line have been deleted such that only reference number 44 points to a stake. The first, second and third diameters 31, 37 and 44 have been added to the replacement sheet for Figure 3A. Reference number "36" and its lead line have been relocated, but are otherwise unchanged. The changes to Figure 3A are highlighted in red ink on an annotated sheet showing the changes.

The disclosure is objected to because of certain informalities. Paragraph [0028] has been amended to remove reference to third diameter 37 and to replace it with reference number 41. Paragraph [0028] has been amended to add reference number 31 for the first diameter, as illustrated in the replacement sheet for Figure 3A. Paragraph [0028] has been further amended to recite that the stakes 44 are mutually spaced angularly and aligned axially in a circle of ring stakes, which upon removal of the stakes becomes an annular space 39 at the outboard end of radial wall 36. This change to the specification should overcome any indefiniteness with respect to the stakes and space 39 coexisting in the same location. However, reference in the claims to space 39 has been removed by this amendment. Removal of reference to "a space" in the claims was discussed with Examiner Binda during a telephonic interview with me on May 17, 2006.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 1, line 8 had recited the limitation, "removal of the stakes producing a space." As discussed in the preceding paragraph, reference to "a space" has been removed from the claims upon consultation with Examiner Binda. This amendment,

therefore, removes the basis for the rejection regarding claim 1, line8. Claim 1, as amended, no longer refers to removal of the stakes producing a space.

In Claim 6, reference to "the annular seat" has been changed to "the seat". The antecedent for this limitation is the seat recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action states that Claims 2, 3, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is the base claim, which has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable Claim 2. Each claim presented for prosecution depends ultimately from Claim 1.

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 3 now depends from Claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended with respect to antecedent basis for "the rim." The element "a rim" is now introduced in Claim 1 due incorporating Claim 2 into Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 27 appear now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May 17, 2006
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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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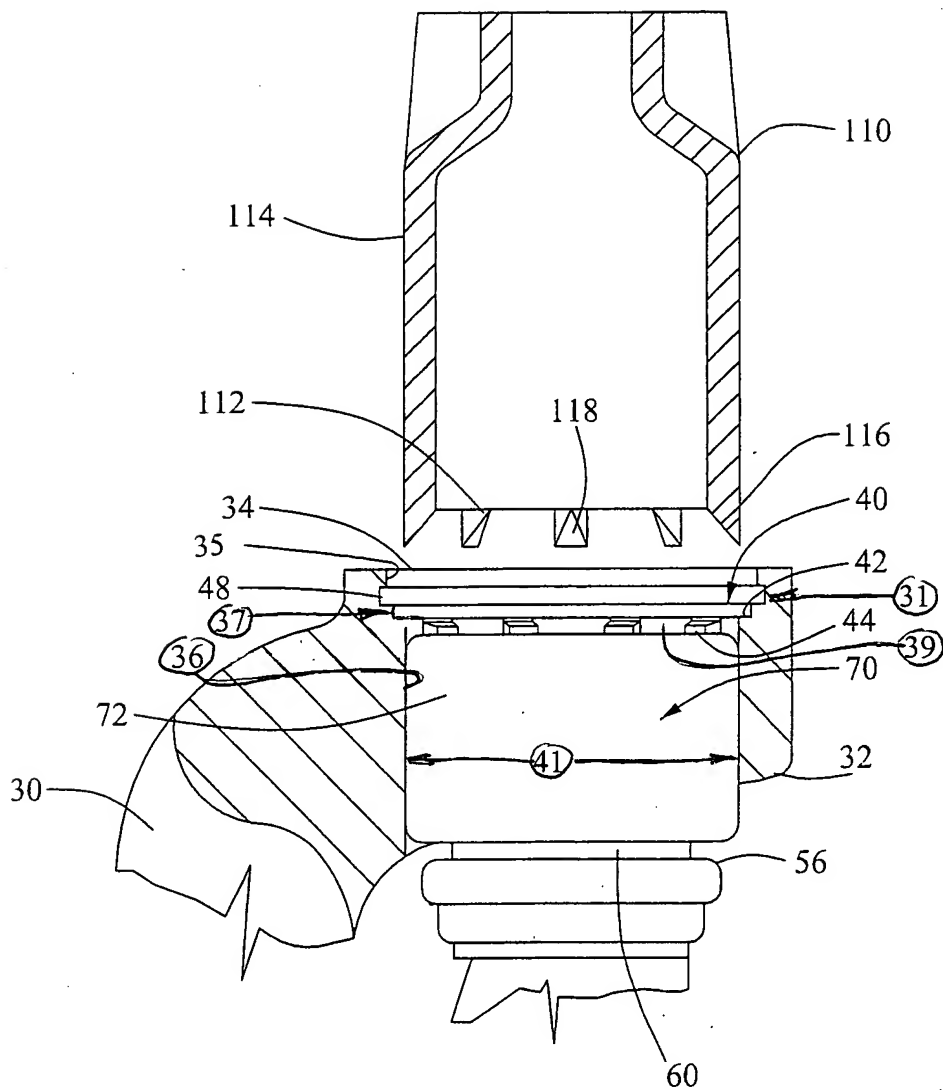


Fig. 3A